DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 447 851 JC 010 017

AUTHOR Andrews, Hans A.
TITLE The Dual-Credit Explosion in Illinois Community Colleges. Research Brief.
INSTITUTION Olney Central College, IL.
PUB DATE 2000-09-00
NOTE 5p.; Author is chair of The Illinois Community College Presidents' Council, Curriculum Committee.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *College School Cooperation; *Community Colleges; *Credit Courses; *Dual Enrollment; Educational Change; High Schools; Nontraditional Students; Program Implementation; *Secondary School Students; Surveys; Two Year Colleges
IDENTIFIERS *Illinois Community College Board

ABSTRACT

In 1996-1997, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) made an administration rule change relative to concurrent enrollments and credit-hour grants. The change allows community colleges offering dual-credit courses to secondary school students in Illinois to receive funding regardless of whether secondary schools were receiving average daily attendance (ADA) funding. (Dual-credit courses are defined as college courses offered to high school students who enroll and receive college credit and credit toward secondary school graduation.) This research brief presents the key findings of a survey conducted in the summer of 2000 with the 48 public community colleges in Illinois, all of which responded. Seventy-seven percent of the colleges indicated that dual-credit courses had increased since the ICCB rule change on funding. All 48 colleges offered some dual-credit courses or program options during 1999-2000. Survey highlights include: (1) 26 colleges offer courses in the secondary school setting; (2) 12 colleges offer dual-credit courses via the Internet, and 16 offer them via two-way interactive distance learning; (3) there was a 240 percent increase in secondary school involvement in dual credit since the funding change; and (4) significant growth in the dual-credit program is expected in most colleges. (MDP)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 447 851

Illinois Community College Presidents' Council

Curriculum Committee

- Dr. Hans Andrews, chair
- Dr. Keith Miller, vice chair
- Dr. Zelema Harris
- Dr. Richard Behrendt
- Dr. John Arabatgis

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
H Andrews
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
1

Research Brief

The Dual-Credit Explosion in Illinois Community Colleges

By Hans A. Andrews

Executive Summary

In 1996-1997, the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) made an administration rule change relative to concurrent enrollments and credit hour grants. The change allows for community colleges offering dual-credit courses to secondary school students in Illinois to receive funding regardless of whether secondary schools were receiving average daily attendance (ADA) funding.

This research brief presents the key findings of a survey conducted in the summer of 2000 with all 48 public community colleges in Illinois. The survey documented *dramatic* changes from the dual-credit offerings prior to and following the new dual-credit financing change made by the Illinois Community College Board.

Key Findings of the 2000 Survey

● All 48 public community colleges responded. Seventy-seven percent (77%) indicated that dual-credit courses had increased since the ICCB rule change on funding.

● Previously, 18 schools did not have dual-credit involvement. All 48 colleges indicated offering some dual-credit courses or program options during 1999-2000.

● Before the change in funding, 120 secondary schools were involved with community college dual-credit offerings.

● In 1999-2000, 290 secondary schools were involved in dual-credit offerings.

● There was a 240 percent increase in secondary school involvement in dual credit since the funding change.

● The survey found 26 colleges offer courses in the secondary school setting. Thirteen colleges indicated they did not.

● Sixteen colleges offer dual-credit offerings via distance learning (2-way interactive).

● Twelve colleges offer dual-credit offerings via the Internet.

● Significant growth in the dual-credit program is expected in the future in most of the colleges.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Introduction, Growth and Prognosis

Before 1997-1998, community colleges in Illinois were offering dual credit course options to secondary school students in a significant number of secondary schools.

- Dual-credit courses, as defined here, are college courses offered to secondary school students who enroll and receive college credit and credit toward secondary school graduation.

A large number of dual-credit courses are delivered in secondary schools and offered during the regular school day. Other colleges have the students attend college course offerings on the college campus or at other off-campus sites during the day or evening.

Roadblock to Growth

A major problem in getting this program to grow over the years was the reluctance of a large number of secondary schools opting not to participate in the dual-credit option offered. If these schools allowed their juniors and seniors to take a college course(s), in place of a high school offering, the state of Illinois rules did not allow the secondary school to claim the student for reimbursement for that portion of the day.

On the other hand, the colleges would not be able to submit a claim for state credit hour grant funding if the secondary school claimed the students in the course(s) as part of their "average daily attendance" for those students.

Funding Change

In 1996-1997, the Illinois Community College Board changed its rules to approve funding for the community college dual-credit hours regardless of whether the students were counted as part of the secondary school average daily attendance. The change went into effect in the 1997-1998 academic year.

Growth

This program is *experiencing fantastic* growth since the rule change. Surveys returned in the summer of 2000 projected continued growth in the months and years ahead.

- The program has grown from 120 secondary schools participating in 1996-1997 to 290 during 1999-2000. This is a growth of 240 percent since the ICCB rule change was passed.

The dual-credit option gives secondary school administrators and counselors a tremendous option for challenging their students in the junior and senior years. Those students who are ready and are academically talented can get a head start on their college careers. Other students are finding technical and vocational options for them at the community college.

- The Illinois Board of Higher Education affordability study in 1996 presented many concerns about the length of time and the cost of achieving a college degree. The suggestion was made to expand opportunities to high school students to receive college credit. ***The dual-credit option is becoming the number one response to those concerns!***

Description of Colleges Surveyed

The state of Illinois presently has 48 public community colleges. All 48 colleges were contacted for this survey. All 48 colleges responded! There are 37 single college districts and two multiple-college districts. Chicago City Colleges have seven colleges and the Illinois Eastern Community Colleges have four colleges. The surveys were sent to the college presidents and were completed by instructional vice presidents or deans in most instances.

Transfer, Technical and Vocational Course Offerings 1999-2000

Courses were offered to secondary school students in the categories of (1) transfer, (2) technical and (3) vocational classes. The following is a summary of those offered most often by the community colleges:

Most offered dual-credit courses for TRANSFER college credit

English 101	22 colleges	History (U.S.)	11 colleges
Psychology, Intro.	17 colleges	Calculus	10 colleges
Mathematics	15 colleges	Sociology, Intro.	7 colleges

Other Transfer Classes:

Trigonometry, biology, business, literature, speech, statistics, Spanish, humanities, fine and performing arts classes, social science, college algebra and economics (a total of 33 options listed.)

Most offered dual-credit courses for TECHNICAL college credit

Cisco Networking	13 colleges	Computer Information Systems	6 colleges
Mechanical Tech.	9 colleges		

Other Transfer Classes:

Drafting, electronics, broadcasting, keyboarding, networking, electronics, introduction to the Internet, information processing, telecommunications, pharmacy technology, food management and E.M.T. (a total of 32 options listed.)

Most offered dual-credit courses for VOCATIONAL college credit

Automotive	14 colleges	Welding	4 colleges
Nursing Assistant	4 colleges	Electronics Engineering Tech.	3 colleges
Cosmetology	3 colleges		

Other Transfer Classes:

Criminal justice, ornamental horticulture, machine tool, drafting, culinary arts, air conditioning and refrigeration, banking, electricity, diesel technology, manufacturing processes, beginning C.A.D. and gas welding (a total of 29 options listed.)

Quality Safeguards Used in Dual-Credit Classes by Community Colleges

The number one and number two quality safeguards mentioned were: *Placement testing* for students prior to enrolling and having *faculty who meet the qualifications and competencies required by the college* to teach the dual-credit courses. Other safeguards mentioned include: (1) course requirements and syllabus are the same as all other course sections offered on-campus; (2) use of the same textbooks; (3) department chairs observe the class(es) once a semester; (4) use of secondary school counselor recommendations; and (5) use of student evaluations.

Outlook for the Future of Dual-Credit Programs:

Most colleges saw dual-credit offerings as a future growth area. Comments included, "a win-win program." "here to stay." "the senior year schedule will look more like a college schedule." "distance learning is a great outlet option." and "it offers stronger communications between secondary and post-secondary institutions." Some institutions see the growth coming in technical and career course offerings.

* Tuition Agreements:

The waiving of tuition was mentioned most often. This allows the secondary school student to enroll without having to pay tuition to the college. Other colleges charged tuition or had a reduced tuition. If a secondary school instructor was selected to teach the course, tuition is waived. The same colleges charge tuition if the college instructor is the teacher. One college has the high school pay for the instructor cost and does not charge tuition to the student in return.

Concerns Expressed:

A number of "concerns" were expressed in a variety of areas: maintaining the quality and integrity of the classes taught in the high schools; some concern by college faculty about losing future enrollments in their classes; transportation of students; union concerns of faculty in both institutional levels; what to do about tuition; high school students not being eligible for financial aid; and resistance of some secondary schools to the program. There were no concerns that appeared to be expressed by any significant numbers of the colleges.

Summary

Dual-credit programs in Illinois Community Colleges have expanded 240 percent, over the past two-year period. Colleges surveyed identified the strengths, concerns and quality issues being addressed to make this an outstanding program. It can be expected that more secondary schools, students and course offerings will become part of the dual-credit program in the years ahead.

* The Illinois Community College Board is making grants available to all community colleges in Illinois to cover tuition waiver amounts starting in FY 2001.

For more information on the
Dual-Credit Brief,
please contact
Dr. Hans A. Andrews
Olney Central College
305 N. West Street
Olney, IL 62450
Fax: 618-392-5212
E-mail: andrewsh@iecc.cc.il.us